

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging device comprising:  
a network interface adapted for coupling to a network; and  
a processing facility, wherein the processing facility is adapted to request a configuration from a second imaging device through the network interface in response to receiving an external upgrade command and a network location of the second imaging device.
2. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the configuration from the second imaging device is requested from a storage location that is selected from the group consisting of: the second imaging device, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, a server, and a third imaging device.
3. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the external upgrade command is given by a management facility which resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.
4. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein the configuration from the second imaging device is selected from a group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.
5. The imaging device of claim 4, wherein the configuration from the second imaging device comprises at least one configuration parameter, where a mask is applied to the at least one configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on the imaging device while being upgraded.
6. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method comprising:  
communicating with a first imaging device having a configuration;  
communicating with a defined list of second imaging devices, each second

imaging device having a configuration; and  
directing the second imaging devices to update their configuration using the configuration of the first imaging device in a manner selected from the group consisting of: retrieving the configuration from the first imaging device, storing the configuration of the first imaging device in a storage location, and directing each of the second imaging devices to retrieve the configuration of the first imaging device from the storage location; and directing each of the second imaging devices to retrieve the configuration from the first imaging device.

7. The computer usable medium of claim 6, wherein the configuration is selected from the group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.
8. A method of updating configuration for imaging devices connected to a network, comprising:  
defining a list of similar imaging devices connected to the network;  
defining a network location associated with desired configuration for the list of similar imaging devices; and  
directing each imaging device of the list of similar imaging devices to retrieve the configuration from the network location.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
communicating with the imaging devices connected to the network with a management facility, wherein the management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:  
retrieving the configuration of an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices with the management facility; and  
placing the configuration at the network location.
11. The method of claim 8, wherein the configuration is selected from the group consisting of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and at least one configuration parameter.
12. The imaging device of claim 8, wherein the configuration is at least one configuration parameter, and wherein a mask is applied to the at least one configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on the imaging device while being upgraded.
13. The method of claim 8, wherein the network location is selected from the group consisting of: an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, and a server.
14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
periodically checking for changes in configuration, and if a change is noted,  
initiating a follow-up update.
15. A method of upgrading an imaging device, comprising:  
receiving an external upgrade command and a network location associated with  
a desired configuration for the imaging device; and  
retrieving the desired configuration from the network location.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the desired configuration is that of a similar imaging device.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
receiving the external command from a management facility, wherein the  
management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the  
group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a  
management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in  
an imaging device, and a master imaging device.
18. The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
retrieving the configuration of a selected imaging device with a management  
facility; and  
placing the configuration at the network location.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the network location is selected from the  
group consisting of: an imaging device, a local network site, a remote network  
site, a website, and a server.
20. The method of claim 15, wherein the imaging device selects an appropriate  
version of the desired configuration from the network location to match its type.